



South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
South Carolina Board of Examiners in Opticianry

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llr.sc.gov/opti

Opticianry Requirements for Licensure and Application Process

Opticianry Licensure

A person is qualified to receive a certificate of licensure if the following requirements are met:

- Submission of a completed application and payment of licensure fee(s).
- Graduate from an accredited high school or GED completion.
- Pass the American Board of Opticianry (ABO) Examination.
- Pass the South Carolina Practical Opticianry Examination.
- Completion of one (1) of the following:
 - Graduate from a two-year ophthalmic dispensing program accredited by the Commission on Opticianry Accreditation (COA).
 - Hold a current, in good standing, optician's license from another licensing state.
 - Have been employed at least two years as an optician in a state that does not license opticians; must document employment.
 - Complete a South Carolina Registered Apprenticeship Program under a S.C. state licensed optician, optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Application Process

Your application is good for one (1) year from the date of receipt. If all required information is not received within this one (1) year period; you must begin the application process from the beginning. This includes, but is not limited to, the application fee, transcripts, license verifications, etc.

1. Application – In addition to the a completed application, the following must also be sent:
 - a. Check or money order only, in the amount of \$100 payable to SC Opticianry Board (Fees are non-refundable). A returned check fee of up to \$30, or an amount specified by law, may be assessed on all returned funds. **NO CASH IS ACCEPTED**
 - b. Copy of your valid Driver's License, State Issued ID, or Passport
 - c. Copy of your Social Security Card
 - d. Proof of high school graduation, GED Certification, or college official transcript
 - e. Poof of two years full-time employment for those currently working in a non-licensing state, if applicable
 - f. Legal documentation for name change (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc.)
 - g. Notarized Verification of Lawful Presence
2. Documents to be sent directly to the Board from issuing agency/institution
 - a. Education Verification: If you have graduated from a two-year COA accredited ophthalmic dispensing program, contact your college/university to request an official copy of your transcript be sent directly to the Board office. Transcripts may be accepted via email or mail. Unsealed transcripts submitted with applications will not be accepted.
 - b. License Verification: Contact the state board(s) where you are currently or have been previously licensed with and have the verification mailed directly to the Board office. We will accept a state board issued form.

- c. ABO Exam Scores: If you have passed the ABO national competency examination, you will need to contact ABO and request your scores be released to the Board.
3. Practical Exam: All applicants are required to pass the practical examination as designated by the Board. Once your application has been approved, you will be emailed instructions on how to register for the exam and where to find study material. The examination is administered twice a year in Columbia, SC by ABO. Applicants who fail to pass the exam may apply to re-take the examination twice before restrictions are applied. Applicants will not be permitted to take the examination within a year following notice of the second or succeeding failures. An application for re-examination must be accompanied by a statement of additional training, work or study completed since the time of the most recent exam failure. The Board will be automatically notified of your scores and will send confirmation and further instructions.

You may check the current status of your application online by visiting the board's website at <https://www.llr.sc.gov/opti/>.